

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 PRS-01 SCA-01 INSE-00 DHA-05
NEA-10 SS-15 NSC-05 /053 R

DRAFTED BY EUR;SOV;LWILLEMS:REH
APPROVED BY EUR;SOV;MGARRISON
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-----043258 250230Z /66

P R 242202Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, SREF, UR, US (YANKELEVICH, YEFREM)

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS ABOUT YANKELEVICH VISA CASE

REF: MOSCOW 12317

1. REUTER'S REPORT THAT EMBASSY REFUSED TO ISSUE ENTRY
VISAS TO RELATIVES OF SAKHAROV PROMPTED SOME TELEPHONE
INQUIRIES FROM PRESS, BUT SUBJECT DID NOT RPT NOT COME UP
AT AUG 24 NOON PRESS BRIEFING.

2. GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR USE IN DEPARTMENT FOLLOWS:

3. QUOTE

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Q. CAN YOU COMMENT ON THE REUTERS REPORT THAT OUR EMBASSY
IN MOSCOW DECLINED TO GRANT VISAS TO SAKHAROV'S STEP-
DAUGHTER, HER HUSBAND AND CHILD?

A. THE REUTERS REPORT IS MISLEADING. THE COUPLE, MR. AND
MRS. YEFREM YANKELEVICH, RECEIVED EXIT VISAS FOR ISRAEL.
THEY AND SAKHAROV RECENTLY VISITED OUR EMBASSY CONSULAR

SECTION TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF THE COUPLE'S COMING TO THE US ONCE THEY ARE OUT OF THE USSR. OUR EMBASSY ADVISED THEM ACCORDINGLY, AND OUR EMBASSIES AND THE US INS

OFFICES IN VIENNA AND ROME HAVE BEEN ALERTED TO EXPECT THEM.

ON BACKGROUND: MANY EMIGRANTS WHO RECEIVE EXIT VISAS FOR ISRAEL APPLY IN ROME, AND SOMETIMES VIENNA, TO PROCEED TO THE UNITED STATES. WE DO NOT DOCUMENT THEM FOR TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES UNTIL THEY ARE OUT OF THE USSR, BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THIS IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE EMIGRANTS THEMSELVES AND THOSE WHO MAY SEEK TO EMIGRATE IN THE

FUTURE. UNQUOTE

5. FULL TEXT OF REUTERS ITEM FOLLOWS:

QUOTE MOSCOW AUG 24. THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY HERE HAS REFUSED TO ISSUE ENTRY VISAS TO TWO RELATIVES OF HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGNER ANDREI SAKHAROV FRIENDS OF THE FAMILY SAID TODAY.

QUOTE THEY SAID DR. SAKHAROV RECENTLY VISITED THE EMBASSY TO REQUEST US ENTRY VISAS FOR HIS STEP-DAUGHTER, MRS. TANYA YANKELEVICH AND HER HUSBAND YEFREM, WHO LAST MONTH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RECEIVED PERMISSION FROM SOVIET AUTHORITIES TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL WITH THEIR TWO SMALL CHILDREN.

QUOTE DR. SAKHAROV'S FRIENDS WERE UNSURE OF THE REASON FOR THE REFUSAL, BUT AMERICAN SOURCES SAID IT WAS NOT THE PRACTICE FOR THE EMBASSY HERE TO ISSUE VISAS IF ISRAEL WAS GIVEN AS THE DESTINATION ON EMIGRANTS' SOVIET EXIT PAPERS.

QUOTE IN SUCH CASES EMIGRANTS WERE GIVEN ISRAELI DOCUMENTS BY THE DUTCH EMBASSY WHICH REPRESENTS ISRAEL'S INTERESTS IN MOSCOW. USUALLY THEY TRAVELLED FIRST TO VIENNA WHERE ISRAELI IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES MEET JEWS LEAVING THE SOVIET UNION, AND WERE FREE TO CHANGE THEIR DESTINATION THERE IF THEY WISHED THE SOURCES SAID. UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770827/aaaaawcq.tel
Line Count: 109
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TAGS: CVIS, SREF, UR, US, (YANKELEVICH, YEFREM)
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